



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY REMINDS RESIDENTS TO ADJUST IRRIGATION TIMERS WHEN SETTING CLOCKS BACK
San Clemente Homeowners Can Save Water and Money by Reducing Winter Irrigation

November 2, 2017....San Clemente, California... Did you know the end of Daylight Saving Time is a great opportunity to actually gain some savings on your water bill? For many San Clemente homeowners, more than half of their water use goes to outdoor irrigation, and many of the City's yards and gardens are receiving more water than they actually require. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. local standard time on Sunday, November 5th and clocks are turned backward one hour.

Whether a landscape contains turf, roses, edibles, or native California plants, its irrigation needs are directly related to the hours of daylight, not the intensity of the sun nor the outdoor temperature. That means, based on average day length in November, your plants only need a tiny bit more water than they do in February. They need even less if we receive any measurable rainfall, so residents should take care to turn off any irrigation system not equipped with rain sensor, prior to predicted storm events.

The City's Utilities Department suggests setting a standard irrigation timer to run the following times as we head into the winter months: 2 cycles of 3 minutes, 2 days per week for turf; and 2 cycles of 4 minutes, 1 day per week for trees, shrubs, and groundcover. Soil types can vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, so homeowners who continue to observe runoff due to particularly impermeable clay soils should cut the cycle time in half but add twice as many cycles.

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While the change of seasons is a great time to adjust your irrigation controller, residents should also double check irrigation settings after a power outage, which can reset controllers to their factory settings and lead to under -- or over -- irrigation, depending on the time of year and type of landscape.

Residents who need additional assistance setting or adjusting an irrigation timer can contact the City's Water Conservation Analyst at (949) 361-8354 for free guidance, including an informative irrigation audit. The City also would like to remind residents looking to upgrade their irrigation timer to a new, weather-based "smart" model, that rebates are available to San Clemente water customers and may cover purchase prices of up to \$330. Go to <http://www.san-clemente.org/WaterConservation> to learn more about water conservation, irrigation timers, and other rebate programs.

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